



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

[www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)

AUG 1 2003

Dear Mr. Waxman:

This is in response to your letter of July 23 to the Secretary in which you express your concern regarding jamming of broadcasts to Iran.

We have been able to confirm a study from a private U.S. company that tracks the jamming of one of two affected transponders on the Telstar 12 satellite to a source located in or near Cuba. Because of this, we met with Cuban government officials, both here and in Havana, on July 17 to convey our concerns regarding this harmful interference emanating from the area of Cuba and noted that the interference appeared to be intentional. In compliance with International Telecommunication Union (ITU) procedures, we asked the Cuban government to investigate the matter. The Cuban government has responded publicly by rejecting any accusation that it is involved in the jamming, but has agreed to look into the matter. Subsequently, on July 25 we passed to the Cuban government technical information regarding the nature of the jamming. Meanwhile, we are continuing our efforts to pinpoint the exact source of the interference to both affected transponders.

We share the view that independent broadcasts to Iran play a vital role in promoting an open exchange of ideas, and we are deeply concerned that an important flow of such information is being obstructed. We will continue to pursue this matter vigorously, particularly given the apparent intentional nature of the interference and the possible involvement of two regimes with the antidemocratic and repressive characteristics of Iran and Cuba. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul V. Kelly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Paul V. Kelly  
Assistant Secretary  
Legislative Affairs

The Honorable  
Henry A. Waxman,  
House of Representatives.